

**NOVEMBER 15, 2022
JASPER, FLORIDA**

REGULAR SESSION

The Board of County Commissioners, Hamilton County, Florida, met in regular session on Tuesday, November 15, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room, 207 Northeast First Street, Jasper, Florida. Present were Commissioners Randy Ogburn, Jimmy Murphy, Robert Brown, Josh Smith and Richie McCoy, a full Board being present. Also present were County Coordinator Louie Goodin and County Attorney Andy Decker.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Smith and led in prayer by Commissioner Ogburn with the Pledge of Allegiance being led by Chairman Smith.

Chairman Smith and Commissioner Ogburn thanked the Board and staff for all the years of work and the honor of serving as County Commissioners for Hamilton County.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN / VICE-CHAIRMAN

- Motion by Commissioner Ogburn to elect Commissioner Brown as the Chairman and Commissioner McCoy as the Vice-Chairman for the 2023 fiscal year. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

**FUTURE RENAISSANCE ACADEMY – TARA LOWE-PHILILIPS
– SUPPORT AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Tara Lowe-Phillips, representing Renaissance Academy, addressed the Board and shared with the Board her plans to start a Charter School in Hamilton County. Ms. Phillips stated that the school would have approximately 110 students from 3rd thru 7th grades. Ms. Phillips explained that her plan was to utilize the Central Hamilton Elementary building that is owned by the School District; however, the School District

stated that they intend to auction off the building. Ms. Phillips stated that her alternative to the Central building would be to utilize a couple of the wings at the old High School (Courthouse Annex). The Board explained that the condition of the wings would not be suitable for a school and discussed the possibility of drafting a letter of support and to request that the School Board reconsider their decision to auction the building. Ms. Phillips also stated that her request for monetary assistance would be approximately \$100,000 and explained the FTE funding and the affect that the Charter school would have on the public school system. After a lengthy discussion, the Board agreed to allow staff to draft a letter of support and request that the School Board reconsider their intentions with the Central Elementary building. Ms. Phillips will also get with County Coordinator Louie Goodin and take a look at the condition of the wings.

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM – 10 YEAR SERVICE AWARDS PRESENTATION – PAMELA ALLEN

Assistant Emergency Management Director Pam Allen recognized and presented the CERT members for ten (10) years of service.

SHIP / CDBG PROGRAM / CDBG-CV – STATUS REPORT

Ship Administrator Spencer Nabors provided an update regarding the current Ship, CDBG and CDBG-CV projects. Mr. Nabors advised the Board that he is in the process of qualifying homeowners for a new round of Ship projects. Mr. Nabors stated that the site visit for the CDBG grant with DEO has been completed.

County Attorney Andy Decker advised the Board that the CDBG-CV appeal has been accepted with the funding for the grant set aside until the completion of the appeal process. Mr. Decker also presented the Board with a retainer agreement for special representative Sid Bigham who filed the appeal on behalf of the county.

- Motion by Commissioner Smith to approve the retainer agreement with special representative Sid Bigham for the CDBG-CV appeal and to allow County Attorney Andy Decker to sign and execute the agreement. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

The Board also discussed the request from Mr. Bigham concerning his communication with ITC as work product privilege and to allow an addendum which would make their role be covered by the attorney client privilege. Mr. Decker stated that he wasn't sure if an addendum to the currently contract with ITC would be sufficient or if a stand-alone contract will need to be approved. Mr. Nabors, with ITC, stated that he would check with legal counsel to determine the correct way to proceed. Mr. Bigham advised that he would need their testimony and knowledge. After a lengthy discussion, the Board agreed to reserve judgment until additional information can be obtained.

ROAD PAVING PROJECTS – STATUS REPORT

Greg Bailey, with North Florida Professional Services, provided the Board with a status report on the current road projects.

LAKE BAISDEN LOOP / SW 107th AVE. – Mr. Bailey advised the Board that he will be meeting with Curt's Construction Company tomorrow to begin the Lake Baisden Loop paving project.

GIBSON PARK – Mr. Bailey that the SRWMD permit is being prepared for the Gibson Park Boat Ramp project.

SR-6 INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT – Mr. Bailey presented the Board with a conceptual layout of the property and discussed the wetlands issues and any changes that the Board may consider. The Board discussed the possible land purchase from Sonny Scaff in order to square off the property and allow a second entrance. The Board agreed to allow staff to address the SRWMD as to the mitigation of wetlands present.

TASK WORK ORDER – HYDROGEOLOGICAL SERVICES TO SET INFLATABLE WELL PACKERS TO ISOLATE THE BOTTON OF THE BOREHOSE FROM THE TOP AT SR 6/I-75 WATER TREATMENT PLANT – NORTH FLORIDA PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

- Motion by Commissioner Smith to approve the task order as presented by NFPS for the SR-6 / I-75 water treatment plant. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Mr. Bailey wished Commissioner Smith and Commissioner Ogburn the best of luck and thanked each for their service and support throughout the years.

I-75 JENNINGS INTERCHANGE – Mr. Bailey advised the Board that he met with FDOT to discuss the expansion and planning for the I-75 interchange at Jennings. Mr. Bailey stated that funds for the interchange are available.

FDOT 5 YEAR WORK PLAN – The Board discussed the current list of roads that have been previously submitted for consideration by FDOT and several other possible additions to the list. After a lengthy discussion, the Board agreed to submit the following road projects for consideration: NW 13th Drive (from north of deep creek to CR-152), CR-148 (resurface), NW 86th Blvd. (Hwy. 41 to end of pavement), CR-141 (West Bridge to SR-6) and CR-751 (Nobles Ferry Bridge to SR-6). Commissioner Smith reminded the Board of the SW 90th Blvd. paving project and the NW 63rd Ave. project that were to be done by the Road Department. The Board also requested Mr. Bailey to check with FDOT to see if there are any funding opportunities for bridge replacement. The Board also agreed to send the letter of appreciation to Kim Evans for her assistance with road projects and always helping to obtain additional funding for the paving projects when needed.

MISCELLANEOUS PROJECTS – The Board discussed several other ongoing as well as new projects with staff.

JENNINGS PROPERTY ASBESTOS PROPOSAL – Mr. Goodin advised the Board that only one (1) bid proposal was submitted for the asbestos removal for the old Holiday Inn property in the amount of \$149,000. The Board and staff discussed the proposal and determined that it was much higher than expected for the project and took the following action:

- Motion by Commissioner Smith to reject the bid proposal from Coastal Plains Environmental, Inc. and to allow staff to re-bid the project and to determine the affect that placing the debris in the County’s Class III Landfill will have. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

FIRE SERVICE AGREEMENTS WITH THE MUNICIPALITIES AND COUNTY FIRE SERVICE

Fire Coordinator Henry Land discussed with the Board the invoice from the City of Jasper for fire services for the month of October. The Board discussed the need for an agreement with the City of Jasper in order to approve the fee structure for each type of call. The Board directed staff to draft a fee schedule and stated that the invoices from the City of Jasper would need to be signed in order to be processed. Mr. Land stated that he will work on the fee schedule and provide the Board with documentation per call / run that was questioned by the Board.

- Motion by Commissioner Smith to deny payment for the invoice until proper documentation can be obtained and to set a \$10,000 monthly cap. Second was made by Commissioner Ogburn, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

The Board requested that Chairman Brown and Mr. Goodin meet with Mr. Collins to discuss the issues and if the City of Jasper refuses to work with the Board, it will bill the municipality for a call / response inside the City Limits.

Mr. Land discussed the need to upgrade the Fire Fighters living quarters at the EOC to make the space habitable.

- Motion by Commissioner Smith to allow County Maintenance Department to make the necessary repairs to the Fire Fighters habitable space as needed. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Motion by Commissioner Smith to approve the consent agenda. Second was made by Commissioner Ogburn, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

APPROVE BILLS

- Motion by Commissioner McCoy to approve the bills (vouchers 157224 – 157510 and checks 069437-069540). Second was made by Commissioner Smith, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

LEAVE PAYOUT FOR EMS EMPLOYEE

- Motion by Commissioner McCoy to declare an emergency and approve the leave payout for Stephanie Lang. Second was made by Commissioner Murphy, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

NUTRIEN DEMONSTRATION OF FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Board reviewed information provided by Environmental Attorney Scott Shirley regarding the change in the demonstration of financial responsibility by Nutrien. County Attorney Andy Decker explained that the change is a more secure way of financial responsibility and that the Board will need to acknowledge the change.

- Motion by Commissioner Ogburn to acknowledge the change by Nutrien for the “demonstration of financial responsibility” as reviewed and recommended by legal counsel, which is in compliance with the current mining ordinance. Second was made by Commissioner Smith, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- County Coordinator Louie Goodin advised the Board that he would be on vacation all next week.
- Commissioner McCoy thanked Commissioner Smith and Commissioner Ogburn for their friendship and years of service.
- Commissioner Smith thanked staff and the other Commissioners and reminded the Board of the paving projects that have been approved in District 2.
- Commissioner Ogburn thanked everyone for their friendship and professionalism and stated that he would always be just a phone call away.
- Commissioner Murphy questioned staff as to the demolition of the service stations at the Jennings interchange, Mr. Goodin stated that no asbestos was found in the buildings and that they will be demolished along with the old Holiday Inn.
- Clerk of Court Greg Godwin thanked Commissioner Smith and Commissioner Ogburn for their years of service as a County Commissioner.
- Chairman Brown discussed the need to provide additional lighting at the Annex to allow poll workers and staff to be able to safely utilize

the Supervisor of Elections office. The Board directed staff to take care of the request.

There being no further business before the Board, Chairman Brown adjourned the meeting at 8:22 p.m.

ROBERT BROWN, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

GREG GODWIN, EX-OFFICIO CLERK

